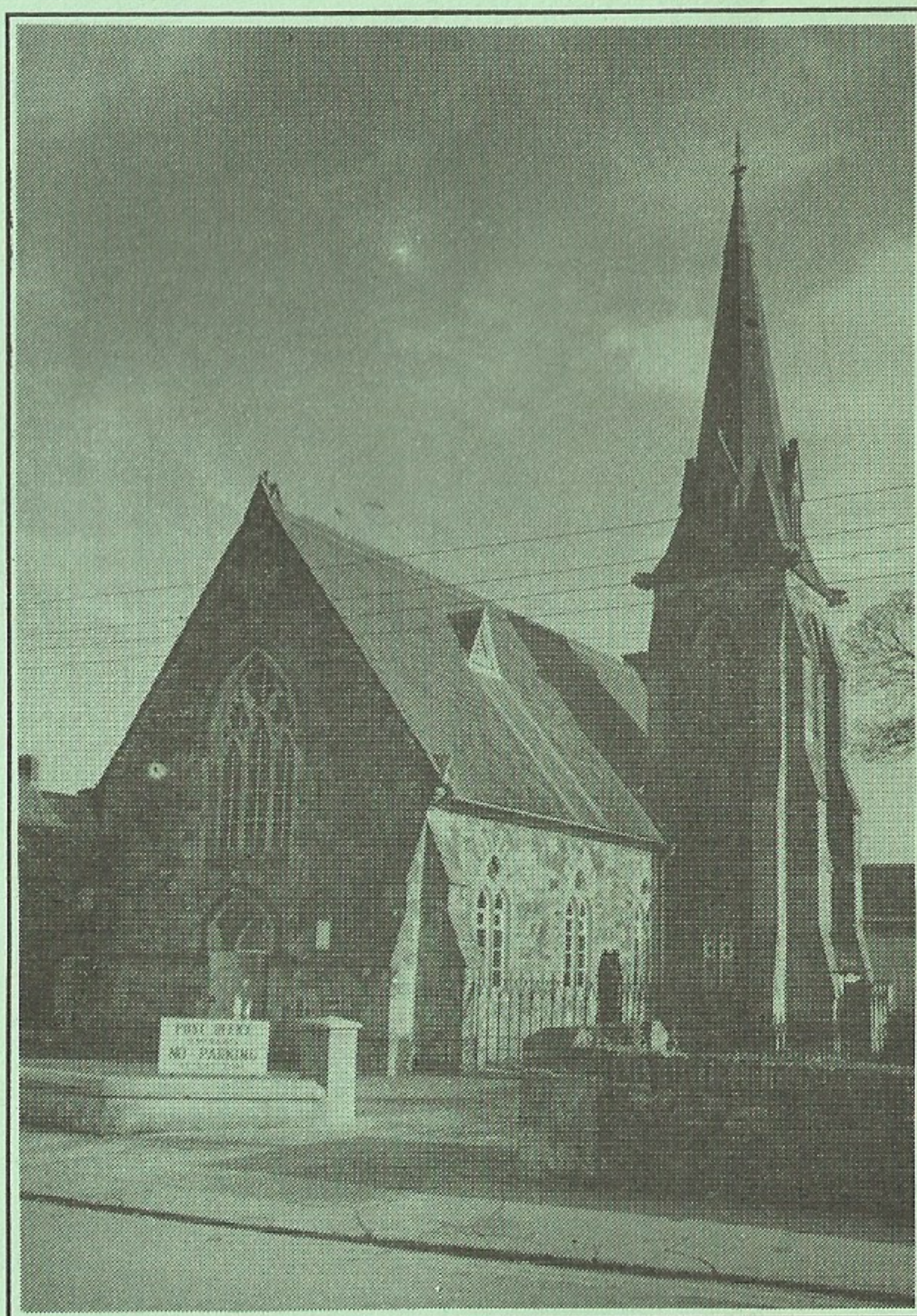


LINK-UP

DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Bulletin No. 2

February 1992



WHERE'S THAT?

A WORD FROM THE HONORARY EDITOR

It is my pleasant duty to make public acknowledgment of the many encouraging letters I have received from well-wishers in Northern Ireland as well as in the Republic. I say *public* acknowledgment, as time does not allow me to reply promptly to all letters. Correspondents will not think me ungracious therefore if following the appearance of Bulletin No.1 on 1 October 1991 I have not been able formally to acknowledge either their letters or the congregational magazines/news-sheets which some of them so thoughtfully enclosed. I would assure them all that their correspondence has been the means of allaying the fears I had at the outset about the feasibility of a bulletin such as this one and in particular about my own suitability as its honorary editor.

My plea to you all - ministers, clerks of session, congregational secretaries and correspondents - is: KEEP ON SENDING YOUR MATERIAL TO ME at Farranshane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Only in this way can our bulletin be sustained and improved. We hope, God willing, to publish Bulletin No.3 on Wednesday 3 June. Please let me have 'copy' by 6 May.

Some copies of Bulletin No.1 are still available.

I think it will be admitted on all hands that our printers, Kingfisher Press, Greystones, have done an excellent job. Long may they flourish!

AGHADA AND TRINITY CORK

It was encouraging to have so many children and young people together for the Christmas party cum bowling outing in Trinity hall. Rev. Steve Stockman came to get to know us and to bowl and show us how to demolish a box of chocolates. Our good wishes to Hilda Kupey who is now in East Ferry nursing home and welcome back to Irmgard Graeme-Cooke who spent Christmas in America. Annie McCarter deputised very ably at the Aghada organ, despite health problems, and we enjoyed singing a carol which she had composed.

Services in Trinity are being held in the hall during the colder weather. We held an experimental coffee bar outreach in early December and a few folk are meeting to consider if we can sustain ongoing outreach to the wider community around Trinity Church.

Two of our older members died in the autumn, Muriel Redmond who had a long and close interest in the PWA and Jim Buchan who after service in the closing months of the 1914-1918 War also served with the Irish Army during the Emergency and was the 'longest practising architect in Britain and Ireland'. Our deepest sympathy to their families.

John Faris

ARKLOW AND GREYSTONES

'How are ye kindly?' as they ask in Arklow. We hope you are rejoicing in the goodness and love of our Lord. We certainly are though we have had our share of testing. Billy Egan died very suddenly in November. He was a man with a big heart and many children especially experienced his care and kindness. Several other folk have had serious illness but the Lord's healing grace is evident in them. Harvest was very festive in Arklow and Greystones. The Rev. Mary Hunter (Rathgar) and the Rev. Earl Storey (Crinken) were our guests. The Sunday Club (Greystones) spotlighted Bangladesh and promoted a TEAR Fund Lunch later - in November.

Now Christmas we really enjoyed! Sunday School (Arklow) retold the old, old story in such a child-like way that all our hearts were thrilled. Both Congregations, joined by some visitors, filled Greystones Church for the Carol Service. With Arklow Silver Band leading the praise, the singing was marvellous and inspiring. Greystones Church was full also on the weekend when Bangor Ladies' Choir were our visitors. They had come to support East Glendalough School and Peacehaven. They joined us for worship and the whole atmosphere breathed

Christ.

In fact, attendances in both Congregations are very encouraging. Recently the addition of a married couple and three men means that the usual Sunday in Arklow sees around 35 folk gathered. Greystones has had an inflow of about 24 new members and the normal Sunday gathering is around 70 people.

Our young people in both Congregations have a wonderful combination of singing and instrumental abilities. Our elders and members participate in the Services e.g. in our Coleraine - style Communion occasions.

Arklow's 'Monthly Fellowship' and Greystones' 'Thursday Night at the Kirk' are enthusiastic times when we search for a Word from God for such a time as this. In Greystones, four of our members were responsible for getting off the ground an inter-congregational venture. A Community Celebration Service, presented as a 'Songs of Praise Plus', drew together, on a November Sunday afternoon, about 500 people of all ages from Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and other backgrounds to focus on the Lordship of Christ.

Arklow hosted an End-of-Year party. What a sumptuous supper we enjoyed..and what fun and games!!!! Curious?

Yes! We are rejoicing in the goodness and love of our Lord!

Jim Carson

BALLINA, KILLALA AND BALLYMOTE

At the end of October we had a further visit from Dr Lindsay Brown, a teacher at Bangor High School. He takes a special interest in the children of the congregation and also pursues his researches into former Presbyterian congregations in this area. At present he is concentrating on Turlough, near Castlebar. Quite a number of Presbyterian congregations were established in Connacht in the mid nineteenth century, but most have ceased to exist. Today there are only about 100 Presbyterian families in the whole Province of Connacht.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is widely observed in this area and in January we had united services in Ballina, Crossmolina, Killala and Kilglas. We hope to have united Bible studies during Lent.

Ballina had a successful sale in November. In Ballymote work is in hand for its annual sale for the Motor Neurone Association. This is enthusiastically supported by the local community and usually raises over £2,000.

Robin Mac Dermott

BLACKROCK: ST ANDREW'S

We regret to announce the death of Mr Colin McFarlane of St Helen's Road, Booterstown, on 19 December. Colin was a faithful member of our kirk session and a most active member of our committee, serving on the works committee and putting his considerable expertise to good use on our behalf. It was at his initiative that the church central heating was renewed in recent years.

Congratulations to Caroline Price of 27 Watson's Road, Killiney, who married David Grimes of Finglas on 3 January. The couple met in Sydney, Australia, where they are both working at present.

This year we were privileged to have our service broadcast on radio the Sunday before Christmas. The service had a seasonal flavour with carols and appropriate readings.

A regular part of the Advent season is the service conducted by the young people. As usual the service was lively and thought-provoking. We are grateful to David Millard and Stephen Anderson for organising this act of worship.

In the summer we bade farewell to the Kenny family of Palmerston Park, Rathgar. The whole family have moved to Edinburgh where Mrs Kenny has been accepted as a student for the ministry of the Church of Scotland. Celia has already completed her first term of theological study at New College. We wish her well in her vocation.

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will take place on Friday 20 March at 7.45 p.m.

The auction on 13 October raised £1,524 for church funds. The hard-working fund-raising committee are to be congratulated.

Denis Campbell

BRAY: ST ANDREW'S

Harvest services were held late in October when the church was, as usual, beautifully decorated. The evening service was well supported by friends from neighbouring churches and our special speaker was the Rev. Alan Martin of Abbey Church who spoke on Conservation. Afterwards the congregation were entertained to supper in our refurbished Service Room and the following day gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables etc. were distributed to sick and elderly folk and also to the Clinic, nursing and retirement homes.

On 9 November a most enjoyable coffee morning was held in the home of the Beatties in aid of our Organ Fund. It was a perfect autumn day and the event was well supported. Almost £400 was raised.

At our November PWA meeting we were joined by members from Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire churches. Mrs Doris Hodgins gave a most interesting talk on 'Herbs of the Bible' and brought samples of these herbs from her own garden. We had a Visitation of Presbytery on 18 November and were happy to welcome and entertain the Commission.

The official opening of the new St Andrew's School took place on 27 November when representatives of all the churches took part in the dedication of the building and a plaque was unveiled by Mr Seán Mac Gleannáin. As our minister was indisposed we were glad to see the Rev. Alistair Bill back for the event, and the Rev. Alan Martin also represented our church. The large School Hall could not quite accommodate all the visitors and the children entertained us with some excellent singing including a special carol written for the occasion. The new school is beautifully sited at the bottom of Bray Head and surrounded by spacious grounds.

On Sunday 8 December the Rev. Charles McCurdy occupied our pulpit to give the 'Findings' of the Visitation and his report was most encouraging.

A few days later our PWA had a most enjoyable Christmas lunch in the home of Mrs Browne.

Weekly Bible Studies have been led by our minister, the Rev. Denis Campbell, during November and though numbers were small discussion was lively.

Our Carol Service was held a week earlier than usual so that our minister could be with us: he was taking a Broadcast Service from Blackrock the following Sunday. Not only did he join the choir to help greatly with the usual carols, but he also sang a lovely carol as a solo. The Church was beautifully decorated and fortunately these decorations remained fresh and colourful all over the Christmas period.

This autumn we were saddened by the decision of one of our most active members Mr Norman Waugh to move to Cork. Norman took St Andrew's to his heart when he settled in Bray some years ago. He did a lot of tidying in the church grounds and was more than willing when invited to undertake responsibility as secretary of the committee. We wish him a pleasant time in Cork and many happy returns to Bray.

Baptisms: Mike and Clare, son and daughter of Peter and Yvonne Hardy of Dargan Court, Meath Road.

DROGHEDA

Harvest Services

The annual thanksgivings for harvest were observed on Sunday 20 October. Rev. C McCurdy, MA, BD, spoke at the morning service and thanked all who had decorated the church so tastefully. The evening service was taken by Rev R F S

Poots, BA, BD, Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly. There was a large attendance from all local churches. The soloist, Mrs Elsie Nesbitt, Ballybay, sang Lord of the Harvest and This is my Father's World. The scripture was read by Mr J H Miller and the organist, Mrs A Ormiston, led the praise. The minister welcomed all who came to share in the service and thanked all who had taken part.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual act of remembrance took place on Sunday 10 November and our special collection was taken for the Earl Haig Fund. The preacher was the minister and the scripture was read by Mr J Armstrong. The act of remembrance was led by the minister.

Congregational Carol Service

The annual Christmas praise service was conducted by the minister and scripture was read by Jennifer Moffett, Wilma Ormiston, Raymond McIlreavy and Mrs Anna Armstrong. The calypso carol was sung by Nicola Chambers. The minister thanked the organist and all those who took part in such a meaningful way.

Death

Miller, Mrs Violet W, wife of Mr J H Miller and mother of Helen and Ian, 18, December 1991. Mrs Miller was a long-time Sunday School superintendent and secretary of the PWA. She also is survived by her son-in-law Bob Jones and daughter-in-law June and grandchildren Christopher and Amy.

ERVEY

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 13 October 1991 saw a full Church for the annual harvest service. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated by the ladies and all local churches were represented as well as some visitors from England. The preacher was Rev. S Hutchinson, BA, BD, MTh, Clerk of the General Assembly. The soloist, Mr Walter Brown, Rockcorry, sang Beautiful Garden of Prayer and I Come to the Garden Alone. The Clerk of Session Mr E C Porter read the scripture and Mrs E C Porter, organist, led the praise. Rev. C McCurdy, MA, BD, welcomed all present and after thanking those who had assisted invited all to tea in the Church Hall.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual act of remembrance was observed on Sunday 10 November and a special collection was taken for the Earl Haig Fund. Mr E C Porter read the Scripture and led the moment's silence. The minister preached on the theme of peace.

PWA Carol Service

The annual Carol Service organised by the Kells and Ervey Branch took place on Sunday 15 December. Mrs Rosemary Hanson, Ballybay, was the special speaker

and Miss Elizabeth Beattie, Kells, led the service. Mrs M Archibald, Mrs O Gibson and Miss J Archibald read the scriptures and Mrs T White and Mrs G Frazer took the offering. Rev. James Brogan, Kells, and Rev. C McCurdy led in Prayer. A large and representative congregation attended and tea was served afterwards.

Congregational Carol Service

The annual Christmas service took the form of a children's service led by the minister. The children of the Sunday School under the guidance of Mrs Margaret Archibald sang *Away in a Manger*. Prizes were distributed and a small gift was presented to Mrs E C Porter, church organist, in recognition of all she had done during the year.

THE LATE MRS AGNES KIRKPATRICK

On 29 November 1991 Agnes Kirkpatrick ended her life on earth, in a nursing home near Belfast.

As a missionary and wife of the Rev. Will Kirkpatrick, she had been part of the mission family in Gujarat from 1939 to 1969. Then she and Will spent eight years in Drogheda (1970-1978), where they were within the bounds of this Presbytery. At the service of thanksgiving to God for her life on 3 December 1991 in Stormont Presbyterian Church where she worshipped, Dr William Rutherford gave the following appreciation of Agnes.

We are met today to thank God for allowing us to share our lives with Agnes Kirkpatrick, to rejoice in the memory of all she was and to glory in what and who she now is.

Your certainly couldn't overlook Agnes. You knew she was around. Our pictures of heaven are very anthropomorphic and limited, yet in some faint way they hint at that other world. So I cannot but wonder what Agnes's first words were on entering heaven - 'Who's for cricket?' or 'Where do the altos go?'

Some of you will have memories which go back beyond mine to the days when she played hockey for Methody and flung all her energy and enthusiasm into the work of the Girls' Auxiliary. My memories start in India and all are memories of Agnes and Will together, for surely their lives were tied together in the bundle of life and there is no understanding of one without the other.

It was Will who was officially the district missionary in Surat and Broach and here and there all over Saurashtra. But anywhere Will could go Agnes could go too. She had in full measure the Ulster virtues of directness, the gift of making friends, the readiness to accept every man, woman and child as they were, and not because of a label that someone had hung round their neck. She liked to call a spade a spade. As a laborious and mistake-ridden typist, I have always marvelled at people she had grown to know and love with Will in Stormont, Fisherwick.

Drogheda and always India. She continued to share in the joys and sorrows of Maureen and Christopher, continued to care not only for her own sort, but people of other churches, other faiths and of no faith. When my father was dying of cancer he wrote a little book of prayers for people to use during times of illness. He called it 'Learning Through Suffering'. It could do as a title for a biography of Agnes. How typical that having in her body plumbed the mysteries of suffering, she should plan that when she no longer needed a body it should become available for teaching and research.

Today we rejoice that she is her full and true self. We are all deeply in Will's debt that he has encouraged us to use this day for celebration and for thanks. Above all we thank God who has now taken her into his nearer presence, where there is no weeping or wailing and where He will wipe away the tear from every eye.

From Mrs Maryll D. Park of Blackrock, Co. Dublin, we have received the following appreciation of Agnes's contribution to the PWA Presbyterial Committee during the time of Mrs Park's honorary secretaryship.

As representative of Drogheda PWA Branch from 1970 to 1978 Agnes was a most welcome member of Presbyterial Committee. Meetings were never dull when she was present. The missionary cause was all-important to her and she brought tremendous enthusiasm and humour, as well as practical ideas for stimulating new interest throughout the Presbytery.

We shall be forever thankful for her example of courage and cheerfulness in the face of serious illness and her help and encouragement to so many.

DUBLIN: ABBEY

The Abbey Magazine is celebrating seventy years of publication, having, coincidentally, been founded the same year as the State. It is edited by Mrs E Nicholson and comes to us with unfailing regularity through its postal agent, Miss T Houston. We have already received five issues.

Appropriately, on page 8 of the January issue we find 'Abbey Archives from the First Year of Issue 1922', the second part of which relates to the will of a member of the congregation, one Sister Anderson (presumably a retired ward sister in a hospital), which was drawn up at her request by the Rev. J C Johnston, MA, DD, in 1893, but which could not be found at her death. There was no trace of any other will either and, she having no legal heirs, the Government claimed all her assets, as it was entitled to do. It was proved to the satisfaction of the law courts that the will of 1893 was duly attested and they allowed its bequests, which included one of £200, then a substantial sum, to the congregation, to stand.

Abbey's motto for 1992 is: What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? --- Micah 6 v 8.

DUBLIN: ADELAIDE ROAD DONORE

Adelaide Road Donore enjoyed a busy first week of November, celebrating our 150th anniversary. The guest speaker was Mr Michael Perrott of the YMCA and events took place for every age group in the congregation.

Sunday worship on 3 November included mime from Kalinga drama group and singing by Daybreak choir. The praise on 10 November was inspiring, led by the Hamilton Road young people's choir from Bangor, and the 34 young people stayed in the houses of our members, encouraging links between the two congregations.

During the week there were coffee mornings held in two homes, when Michael Perrott gave a short talk. He also spoke at an after-lunch gathering for those of student age; to the Mother and Toddlers' group; to the PWA, lunch club and kirk session. Two very successful evening meetings were held in homes, specifically for women and for men. Sixty ladies gathered for their night and two dozen men for their evening, at which Michael spoke about his faith...and ours.

Members from other congregations joined us that week for our special 'mid-week' fellowship on the theme 'The Devotional Life in the Late 20th Century'; and on the Friday evening over 100 members enjoyed a lovely dinner in a restaurant, followed by an interesting talk by Michael and Hilary Perrott on 'Enduring and Enjoying the Family'. Michael was also interviewed on the Fr Michael Cleary Show on 98 FM. It was a stimulating and invigorating week, which encouraged us to look forward with anticipation as well as look back with gratefulness to God. Adelaide Road Donore's social outreach among the unemployed, 'Dolebusters', continues to be extremely busy three days a week with many clients. The Christmas Community Carol Service on Wednesday 18 December at lunchtime went well, assisted musically by members of the Salvation Army Band.

Morning worship is due to be broadcast on Sunday 22 March on RTE Radio 1 at 10.50 from Adelaide Road Donore.

Frank Sellar

DUBLIN: CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR

Rathgar is another congregation which issues a monthly bulletin. The congregation was erected in November 1859 and fittingly, in its centenary year its minister, the Rev. T A B Smyth, BA, DD, was elected Moderator of the General Assembly. The late Very Rev. Dr Smyth retired in June 1970; but already in 1965 he had begun to produce a congregational news-sheet. The first issue appeared in September of that year. It later became a monthly church record and now as *Cornerstone* is attempting to break away from that mould. Dr Smyth's successor, the Rev. Robin Mac Dermott, MA, BD, STM, continued as compiler until he

became minister of Ballina, Killala and Ballymote, when he was succeeded in Rathgar by the Rev. C M Hunter, BA, BD. It was then that Alex Gibson took over as editor.

Alex, who sent us some of the foregoing information, has kindly supplied us with a sample copy of *Cornerstone*.

LUCAN

We learnt early last November that Dr Tim and Mrs Ann Prescott had received news of their acceptance as a ministry of the work of the Church's Board of Social Witness --- this in connection with their proposed Respite Centre, which they have already been operating on a temporary basis in Lucan Youth Centre. They are now looking forward to moving into the next stage: the setting up of a house for their ongoing work.

Ann hopes to begin soon her work of 'deputation', when she will be visiting churches in the Dublin area. Those interested in being placed on the Prescotts' waiting list or in supporting them prayerfully or financially in their work may contact Ann at 150 Beech Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

A second Respite Week is being planned for 15-22 March. It's also hoped to hold two or three meetings in the Scots Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin -- basically seminars about how to cope with and react to mentally handicapped people in the home and in church.

WHERE'S THAT?

The meeting-house at Clonakilty is described by Dr Clarke H Irwin, the Church historian, as 'one of the neatest in the Assembly' and by a local chronicler, Conchubhar O'Ruairc, as 'well-built and graceful'. The congregation of Clonakilty was organised by the Presbytery of Cork in November 1859, having been for about four years conducted as a mission station by the Rev. William Irwin of Bandon, father of the ecclesiastical historian referred to above, who was born in 1858 as Bandon Manse, about thirteen miles from Clonakilty.

A native of the Coleraine area --- he was born at Bushfield in 1827 --- the Rev. William Irwin was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and was ordained by the Home Mission at Killorglin, County Kerry, in 1852. He was installed minister of Bandon in 1855, the year in which his labours at Clonakilty also began. After a most active pastorate of twenty years in Bandon he accepted a call to Castlerock, near his native place. He became DD in 1887 and died in 1908, having been Clerk of Coleraine Presbytery from 1885.

Mr Irwin ceased his labours at Clonakilty when that congregation got its own pastor. On 27 March 1860 the Rev. Edward Marcus Dill, MA, MD (Glasgow), was

installed in Clonakilty (not *ordained*, as stated by Dr C H Irwin, for he had received ordination at Coagh, County Tyrone, in 1835). Dr Dill had been minister at Cork from 1838 till 1846. He had also been Home Mission Agent and afterwards Secretary of the Scottish Reformation Society. His pastorate at Clonakilty was of short duration, for he died at Fethard in 1862 and was buried in Clonmel, where his cousin, the Rev. John Dill, MA (Glasgow), was minister. His great achievement while at Clonakilty was the building of the meeting-house, which in spite of ill-health, says the history of the Dill family, 'he was enabled to complete'. He also built a schoolhouse.

Dr Dill was followed at Clonakilty by a minister of great distinction, the Rev. Thomas Croskery, who had once been a journalist. Born at Carrowdore in 1830, he was educated at Belfast College, licensed by Down Presbytery in 1851 and ordained by Ballybay Presbytery at Creggan in 1860. Mr Croskery, a sketch of whose life was published by the Rev. Dr Thomas Hamilton in 1875, is described by Irwin as 'a man of great ability, combined with rare gentleness and modesty of character'. He was installed in Clonakilty in 1863 but exactly three years later accepted a call to Waterside, Derry. That charge he demitted in 1875 on his appointment as professor at Magee College. He received the degree of DD in 1883 and died in 1886, leaving two sons in the ministry.

Mr. Croskery's successor at Clonakilty was the Rev. John Haire Charleton, a native of Emyvale, County Monaghan. Also educated at 'Old College, Belfast', he was licensed by his home presbytery in 1853 and ordained at Middletown, County Armagh, in 1855. Called to Clonakilty, he was installed there on 25 September 1866; but he stayed less than three years, subsequently ministering in Maguiresbridge and Clonduff. Mr Charleton, who had a brother in the ministry, died in 1909.

The next minister of Clonakilty was the Rev. William Reid --- the first to be ordained there, as far as we can ascertain. A native of Glarryford, County Antrim, he was born in 1838 and was another alumnus of Belfast College. Licensed by Belfast Presbytery, he was ordained on 24 July 1869. He remained four years in Clonakilty, his later charges being Bellaghy and First Moneymore, and he was Clerk of Magherafelt Presbytery from 1873 till his death in 1919. His wife was a daughter of George Ronaldson of Clonakilty, who, says Dr Irwin, 'was for many years one of the most respected and liberal members of this congregation'. The manse, 'a commodious building overlooking the town', was built during Mr Reid's pastorate. It was occupied by a Mrs Woods in 1959.

Clonakilty pulpit was never long vacant. The Rev. Robert Cowan was ordained there in place of Mr Reid on 2 December 1873. A native of Templepatrick where he was born in 1839, Mr Cowan was educated at Old College and Assembly's College, Belfast, and licensed by Belfast Presbytery in January 1873. A slightly late entrant to the ministry, Mr Cowan laboured in Clonakilty till 1880, when he

was installed in St Andrew's, Nottingham. He later ministered to Warrior Square, congregation, St Leonard's-on-Sea, resigning in 1907. He died at Brighton in 1919. O' Ruairc, quoting from *Guy's Directory* of 1875-6, says that during Mr Cowan's ministry the Presbyterians of the town and district numbered twenty-six. Another Ulsterman succeeded Mr Cowan at Clonakilty. The Rev. Edward Kimmitt was installed on 1 June 1880. He had previously ministered at Birr, where he was ordained in 1857 (1856, according to the *History of congregations*); in Caledonia Road, Camden, London, and at Loughgall, County Armagh. He too had been educated at Belfast College and licensed by Belfast Presbytery. Mr Kimmitt, who retired in October 1895 and died on 18 June 1900, was described as 'a man of wide culture'.

Conchubhar O' Ruairc in his valuable note on the congregation states correctly that 'the last minister was appointed in 1896'. John Torrens Fleming, a licentiate of Limavady Presbytery, was ordained in Clonakilty on 28 May of that year. Limavady was his native place and he studied at Magee College, Derry, where he was awarded the General Arts degree in 1892. The Rev. Mr Fleming was only two years settled in the South when he married Jeanette Sheils, daughter of Thomas Dixon of Bandon. He had the distinction of being Clonakilty's longest-serving minister; but by the time he relinquished his charge after nearly twenty-three years in West Cork the congregation's numbers had fallen even below the twenty-six members of 1875. Mr Fleming was installed minister of Wicklow and Arklow on 23 January 1919 and there he remained till his death on 14 September 1942, 'a faithful minister and a greatly respected pastor'.

Clonakilty congregation, being now too weak to support a stated pastor, was in 1919 united with Bandon under the Rev. Thomas Brown, MA (QUI) and afterwards DD, who was Clerk of Cork Presbytery from 1895 till his death in 1932. Dr Brown resigned his charge on 4 September 1923, when he was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Thomas Rentoul Brown, MA (Dublin). By this time however services at Clonakilty meeting-house seem to have ceased, for O' Ruairc states that '...in 1924, the church, without a congregation, was taken over by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs as a post office'. So it remains to this day.

The period 1916-22 was a turbulent and a trying time, during which Presbyterian statistics as quoted by the Very Rev. Principal Finlay Holmes, DD, showed an alarming loss of Church members, especially in the southern presbyteries --- as high as forty-five per cent in the Presbytery of Cork and forty-four per cent in that of Munster.

We are indebted to Conchubhar O' Ruairc, teacher, author, broadcaster and local historian, for the few following additional particulars about the extinct congregation of Clonakilty.

...The Presbyterians, a prosperous body of landowners in the sixties and

seventies of the last century, have vanished...The original Presbyterians came to the district as land-stewards for the landlords and in course of years became owners of substantial farms. Law of Ballinascorthy; Irwin (Glancore); Ronaldson (The Miles); Sheils and Jeffreys, are names still remembered by the not-so-old of the town and district...

In the local history volume from which I have just quoted an article by F E Bennett entitled 'History of Methodists in Clonakilty' includes this footnote: 'Presbyterian day-school held in room at back of their church. (Now P.O. sorting room.)'

SOURCES

Barkley's *Fasti* i-iii 1986-7; *Clonakilty and district past and present* 1959; *Dill worthies* second edn 1892; *History of congregations* 1982; Holmes's *Our Irish Presbyterian heritage* 1985; Irwin's *History of Presbyterianism in Dublin and the south and west of Ireland* 1890; McConnell's *Fasti* 1936-50; Seery's *Presbyterianism in Bandon* 1980.

Our cover picture was taken by Mr P. Boyle of Bandon, a professional photographer. We acknowledge our gratitude to him and to Mr B. Lucey of Cumann Seanchais na Banndan (Bandon Historical Society) for supplying it.

Hon. Ed.